

THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF  
WIRKSWORTH.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1898.

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PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL.

J. GRATTON, CLERK.

## STATISTICS.

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Area, in acres, 3020.

Population (1891), 3725. Estimated in 1899, 3760.

Houses inhabited, 959. Uninhabited, 28.

Rateable value, £13,506 8s. 6d.

Assessable value, Houses .....	£8679	8	6
„ „ Lands (one-fourth) .....	1206	15	0
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	£9886	3	6
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Amount of last rate at 1s. 3d. in £ ..... £617 18 8

„ previous rate at 1s. 3d. in £ ..... 579 9 10

Total births, 118. Total deaths, 55.

Birth-rate, 31·38. Death-rate, 14·62.

Deaths of Infants under one year to 1000 births  
registered, 67·7.

Zymotic death-rate, ·26. Phthisis death-rate, 2·65.

Total notifications (Infectious Diseases Notification  
Act), 16.

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### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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### URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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### WIRKSWORTH.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Wirksworth.

Gentlemen,—I beg to submit to you my report for the year 1898.

There were 118 births (62 males, 56 females) and 58 deaths (24 males, 34 females). Of the deaths, three belonged elsewhere. The birth rate was 31.38 per 1000 population, or rather above the average. The death rate was 14.62 per 1000 population, or decidedly below the average; in fact, the lowest death rate in the last 21 years.

The death rate of children under one year to 1000 births was 67.7, by far the lowest recorded in the district. The percentage of deaths under one year to the total deaths was 14.54, and of deaths under five years to the total deaths 25.45; while 27.27 per cent. of the deaths were over 65. Of the 15 deaths over 65 years of age, six were over 70, five were over 80, and one was over 90.

Low as the infant mortality undoubtedly was, no less than six out of the eight deaths under one year of age may be considered as due to preventable causes; thus in three the cause of death was certified as due to "wasting," and in three "diarrhoea," two causes painfully associated with improper feeding. There is an excellent charity in the district which supplies poor maternity cases with a basket of linen. It would be well if your Council provided a leaflet of printed instructions on the care and feeding of infants to be distributed with the baskets. Such leaflets can be bought at two or three shillings per 100. More than that, it is time that the Technical Education Committee had another course of nursing

lectures in which instruction is given on the care and feeding of infants.

The zymotic death rate per 1000 living was .26, one of the lowest recorded. The death rate from tuberculosis per 1000 living was 2.65, and nearly one-fifth the total mortality, which is higher than it should be for a country town; the average death rate from tuberculosis in England and Wales being about 1.5 per 1000, and one-seventh of the total mortality.

Recently public attention has been drawn to the prevention of tuberculosis by the destruction of the expectoration of consumptive patients, and by boiling milk before using it. It has been further pointed out that sanitary authorities can do much to prevent the ravages of tuberculosis by using their powers for improving the general health, particularly in keeping the air pure in and around dwellings and by educating public opinion. If the people themselves recognised the necessity of purity of the air they breathe they would more readily submit to sanitary conditions; indeed, they themselves would demand them. The householder's apathy to our best endeavours would change to the keenest interest if he only realised that health or sickness, life or death, depended on details to a large extent either under his own control or to be had for the asking.

The death rate from cancer per 1000 living in the last five years has been as follows:—1894, .8; 1895, .26; 1896, 1.3; 1897, .26; 1898, .8.

During the year there were 16 notifications of infectious disease, all the cases being scarlet fever. In the first ten months there were only four cases, while between November 19th and December 31st twelve cases occurred. Each case as notified was isolated from school, together with the other children from the infected house, and each house, as soon as the termination of the illness was certified, was disinfected by the Council's officers under the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Acts.

The district was systematically inspected by your late surveyor, Mr. D. J. Diver, who made 396 inspections. The removal of night soil by the householders was more regularly attended to than heretofore. Eighty-seven nuisances arising from insanitary privies and ashpits were abated. With the large number of privies in the district, particularly in the more crowded parts, the regular removal of night soil demands constant attention. We find that any relaxation in inspection is immediately followed by over-accumulation of filth.

In household drainage, 6 nuisances were abated, 13 traps were made good, 4 obstructed drains were attended to, and one defective closet was altered.

Twenty-five houses were repaired, and one house was reported as unfit for human habitation.



Of the 22 cowsheds, 20 were inspected, and one received notice for infringing the bye-laws.

Of the six slaughter-houses, six were inspected and no notices served.

The common lodging-house was inspected ten times, and two notices served.

During the year the Sanitary Committee have had under consideration the sewerage at Rise End and Little Bole Hill, also some drainage in West End and in the field adjoining the cemetery.

Water.—The following are your Water Bailiff's monthly statements, showing number of gallons per hour flowing into the reservoir in each month.

Month.	Gallons per hour.
January .....	9500
February .....	7000
March .....	6100
April .....	5900
May .....	5600
June .....	4920
July .....	3936
August .....	2920
September .....	2400
October .....	2300
November .....	4920
December .....	7380

The rainfall, measured at Bridge House, in 1898, was as follows:—

Month.	Inches.	Rainy Days.	Average of United Kingdom.
January .....	1.74 in	9	3.01
February .....	2.01 in	14	2.85
March .....	1.95 in	12	1.94
April .....	2.68 in	12	2.83
May .....	2.99 in	17	2.64
June .....	1.63 in	16	2.31
July .....	1.47 in	8	1.11
August .....	3.70 in	14	3.11
September .....	0.79 in	4	1.94
October .....	4.37 in	15	5.13
November .....	3.33 in	14	
December .....	2.84 in	20	

29.50 in 155

Or 5.82 inches under 1897, and 1.55 inches under the average of the last eight years.

Annual rainfall at Bridge House since 1890:—

1890 .....	26.67
1891 .....	40.66
1892 .....	28.69
1893 .....	22.77
1894 .....	29.55
1895 .....	32.36
1896 .....	32.4
1897 .....	35.32
1898 .....	29.50

The waste of water referred to in my last annual report was investigated by your Council. In March your Water Committee recommended the Council to hire a Deacon's waste water meter for three months. On the 26th March the meter was fixed on the trunk main, and a constant waste of 4500 gallons per hour, or 108,000 gallons per day, was detected, being equivalent to 29 gallons per head per day on the population of the district. On the morning of the 28th March a waste of 7000 gallons per hour was detected in the high pressure service, and the waste of each part of the district was ascertained and followed up, the following defects being discovered:—Three cracked ferules at main, two leaky hydrants, one leaky air valve, one burst lead pipe, which, on being remedied, were found to save a waste of 1000 gallons per hour. Also 65 defective house fittings were detected, giving a waste of 2050 gallons per hour.

In April the total waste was reduced to 2600 gallons per hour; in May it was the same; in June 1200 gallons per hour; in July 1000 gallons per hour; and in August 820 gallons per hour. There is no doubt that owing to the action of the Council the district passed through the months of scarcity (August, September, and October) with far less discomfort than in previous years. The yield of the springs in these months was about 15 gallons per head.

We are again indebted to Mr. Gibbs, of Bridge House, for the rain and temperature records, the latter of which will be found appended.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. E. BROSTER.

Wirksworth, April 29th, 1899.

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Temperature for the year ending 31st December, 1898, at Bridge House:—

Month.	Mean Max.	Mean Min.	Mean.	High- est.	Low- est.	Mean U.K.
January .....	44	37	40	58	26	47
February .....	47	34	40	56	20	43
March .....	47	33	40	56	26	42
April .....	39	29	34	47	26	48
May .....	53	43	48	60	35	50
June .....	61	46	54	71	38	54
July .....	67	50	58	76	42	58
August .....	67	52	60	78	44	60
September ...	63	48	56	82	33	59
October .....	57	49	53	68	40	54
November ...	48	38	43	58	30	
December ....	49	37	43	58	24	